

ON THE SQUARE



The Quarterly Magazine of the McLean County Museum of History

December-January-February 2019-20

Volume 51, Number 4

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ON THE SQUARE

Quarterly Magazine

Edited by Susan Hartzold and Hannah Johnson for the

McLean County Museum of History



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200 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone 309-827-0428 Fax 309-827-0100
www.mchistory.org

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Cover image: Children sledding in Bloomington, circa 1930, one of 36,000 images recently scanned from the Pantagraph Negative Collection

Announcements

Myra Jane Rodgers Shepard Intern Scholarship Launched at the Museum!

To honor a generous legacy gift, the Museum has named the Myra Jane Rodgers Shepard Museum Intern Scholarship. This scholarship will annually provide eight \$1,200 scholarships for students from Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University, and other local institutions of higher education. These students will have the opportunity to grow in their field of study by working alongside our award-winning staff and programs.

Our interns come from a variety of disciplines, including: History, Public History, Education, Sociology, Museum Studies, Anthropology, and Archaeology. Each intern works with Museum staff for 160 hours per semester, with the option to earn credit hours or take an internship as no credit. For example, our current Public Programs Intern works under the supervision of the Education Department assisting with research and development of a pilot middle school program for the new *A Community in Conflict* exhibit; creating crafts, games, and educational activities for *Christmas at the Courthouse*; and other tasks as assigned.

Myra Jane Rodgers Shepard was a Bloomington native and long-time supporter of the Museum. As a graduate of Bloomington High School and Illinois Wesleyan University, Shepard took full advantage of the educational opportunities available to her. Shepard made history herself, serving in the U.S. Navy (WAVES) from 1943-1946 during World War II. She climbed the ranks to become a Lieutenant JG WC while working as a chief communications officer of the Naval Operations Office in Washington, D.C. Her mission was to encode and decode top-secret messages. After returning to civilian life, she received her private pilot's license after the war.

Myra Jane Rodgers Shepard was a member of the Museum since the late 1980s and gave enthusiastically to our institution for 30 years.



Welcome New Members!

Anita Ackerman
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Jami King
Linda Lacy
Dayna Brown Nielsen
Mr. Gregory Nussbaum
Susanne M. Robb
Diane K. Stephens

Gina and Eitan Weltman

Museum membership is an act of philanthropy that supports local history, preservation, and education for the entire community. Each membership also offers direct benefits to you and your family with free admission to the Museum and Library / Archives, discounts in the gift shop, member pricing for event tickets, and our *Time Travelers* reciprocal membership that offers free and discounted admission to hundreds of sites across the U.S.

Seeing Clearly: The Year 2020, A Personal Reflection

By Torii Moré, Curator of Digital Humanities

January 2020 marks 10 years since I started at the Museum as a Collections intern. Since then I have worked in five departments, witnessed the opening of nine exhibits, created over 30 digital projects, and grown about as many grey hairs. I have seen our team embark on a capital campaign, and in turn have seen you—our community—show us how much you value this organization by making that campaign wildly successful. Because of all that and more, this is an exciting moment. It's the end of a big chapter for our organization, and it feels natural to take time to reflect and feel proud of what we have all accomplished.

VISIBILITY

In 10 years, we have gone from less than 500 “likes” on Facebook to over 6,000. We have increased the capacity of our Museum staff by approximately 25 percent. We regularly provide the opportunity for visitors from Korea, France, Brazil, and elsewhere to see through the eyes of people who have lived on this little part of our big planet. This growth has given us a level of visibility that we have not had before. We don't take any of that for granted, but we also know we have more work to do.

Across the museum field, visibility and recognition largely relate to how people see themselves (or don't see themselves) reflected in our respective institutions. This applies to members of staff and board, to interns, volunteers, exhibits, and collections. It impacts who is at the table, who has a voice, and what stories are told. If we as organizations fail to center the voices of marginalized communities, we allow the blind spots in our historical record to grow. If we fail to foster diverse and inclusive organizations at every level, we risk perpetuating the oppression of those marginalized communities.

In 2005 the Museum was awarded the New Communities Initiative Award from Illinois Humanities to develop museum programs in association with South Asian, African American, and Latinx communities in McLean County. In that same spirit of collaboration and outreach, staff recently observed that the Museum's collection is severely lacking in local LGBTQIA+ history-related items and are taking steps with the community to change that. We realized we had lost a relationship with the native groups who were once forced from the land we inhabit and are reaching out to rebuild that trust. It is not a new idea that we want to be an inclusive institution dedicated to telling stories of our diverse community—these goals are embedded in our institution's vision and mission statements. Our team knows we have to continually work to get there, though. This kind of self-reflective growth and relationship building requires vulnerability, honesty, and transparency.

How can we build meaningful and mutually beneficial relationships with native groups who once inhabited this area?

Will we be able to meet our goals to make the Museum more accessible?

Will people ever stop coming in the Museum to pay taxes or get a marriage license?

How do we ensure that values stay aligned given all of the directions the museum moves?

How do we make space for diverse views in our society?

VISION

The former reception desk on the first floor is gone, which has come as a surprise to many people who have visited in the past couple of months. I admit that it was a strange moment to watch it be deconstructed and stored away in deep dark storage. The desk had been a part of the rotunda since the historical society moved into the building. I remember a time when staff would gather at the first floor desk at the end of the work day to make sure all areas of the Museum were shut down, discuss if someone was staying behind to work late, and exit together. I also remember when we could look down from the second or third floors, wave to the volunteer receptionist, and see if they needed a break or a cup of coffee. The Museum has changed so much in such a short time that those days feel much farther away than they really are.

That desk has since been replaced with a video to introduce our visitors to our organization and our exhibits. As time passes, this video viewing area will become as much a part of the rotunda as the first floor desk was—so normal it's barely even noticed. Much like the desk, the unconscious biases we hold as individuals and as organizations are so normal they are rarely noticed. I hope that as we step into 2020, our organization will take time to look inward to identify our institutional biases and work to keep those at the forefront of our consciousness.



Evergreen Cemetery Walk - A Retrospective

Anniversaries offer us an opportunity to reflect on past achievements and look ahead to future untapped potential. In October, the Museum celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Evergreen Cemetery Walk with beautiful weather, cheerful crowds, and ample media attention.



Amy Miller, who has worked as a tour guide for all 25 Cemetery Walks, leads a student group

On opening day, the Museum and the **Evergreen Cemetery Walk** were honored by Representative Dan Brady, who delivered a proclamation on behalf of the State of Illinois in recognition and celebration of the last 25 years of the Walk. We were truly honored to have the impact of this community event (which is a piece of history in its own right) recognized by the state.

Over the course of 25 years, the Walk has brought to life the stories of 183 individuals—some of which have been more troubling than others. Being that the Evergreen Cemetery Walk is a joint educational program for students and the public alike, the Museum works with teachers to help ensure that students are prepared to engage with the information conveyed in the performances. This year's Walk addressed difficult relevant topics including suicide and sexual assault through the voices of local citizens who grappled with such issues in their own time. In response, several teachers reached out with unsolicited positive feedback on how they and their students reacted to this year's performances. In large, teachers viewed these tough topics as "teachable moments" that helped illustrate that actions have consequences.

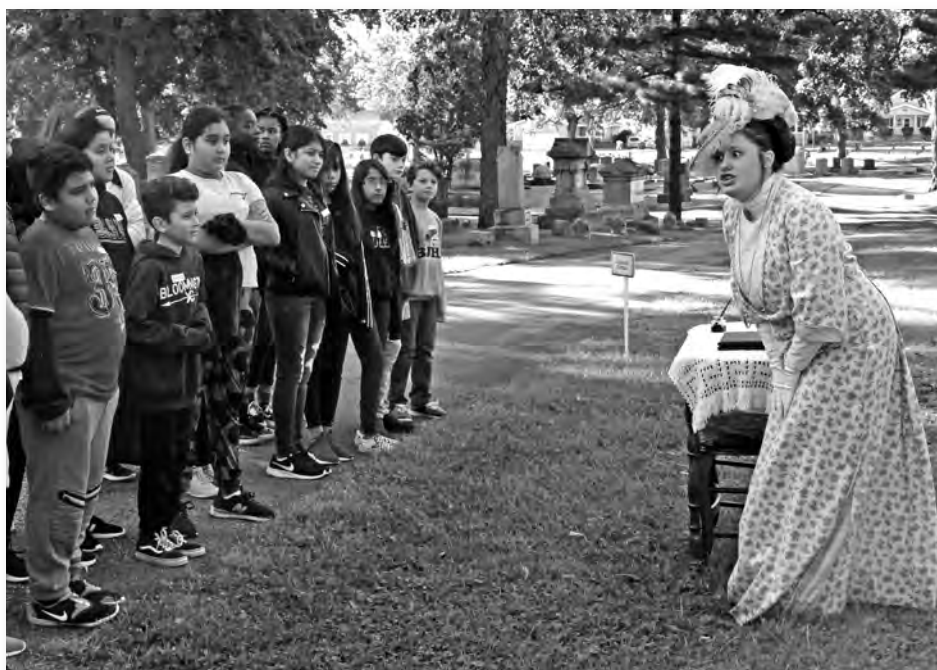
One home school group shared, *"Writing these monologues has to be a tough job, but somehow, each person's story is told in such a way that we as an audience don't perceive it as dry, fact-filled exposition, but as a hearty, familiar talk from someone we would never have known. I personally place value on the inclusion of all the facts, even though controversial, because it's important to me that my children have an unbiased view of people throughout history. Again, the writing was so well done that these subjects were approached delicately enough to go over the heads of the youngest, yet become talking points with the oldest. Thank you all for once again providing this enriching experience for our school aged children."*

Over the course of this eight-day event, 3,231 people experienced McLean County history brought back to life. Of those, 1,864 were students and chaperones who attended the Walk free of charge thanks to our

event sponsors Evergreen Memorial Cemetery and the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, with additional support from CEFCU, Museum Member Willie Brown, and the generosity of Museum members. In addition to our financial sponsors and community supporters, we could not have done this event without our dedicated core of volunteers—including Amy Miller who has served as a tour guide and researcher for ALL 25 Evergreen Cemetery Walks!

As we look ahead to 2020 and beyond, we will continue to embrace ways to improve the Walk and make it more accessible. Some ideas we are exploring include offering ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters at select performances and a long requested “non-walking” version of the Walk. Additionally, as we strive to be more inclusive in sharing the stories of residents throughout McLean County, the 2020 Evergreen Cemetery Walk will feature one “Guest Voice” who is buried in another McLean County cemetery. Not only will this allow us to share significant stories that would otherwise be excluded simply because those individuals are not buried in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, but it will also allow us to educate the public on, and encourage the preservation of, other local cemeteries.

Every year an intentional effort is made to identify characters who represent people from all walks of life. Since the Walk’s inception, we have featured the story of at least one African American individual each year and strive for equal representation of men and women from a variety of backgrounds with interesting stories to tell. We are always on the lookout for new candidates to feature on the Walk, so if someone in your family or someone you know is buried at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, let us know! Dig out those family records and share your stories with the Museum. See you in 2020!



Makenna Lockhart portrays Annie May Christian for a school group



Evergreen Cemetery Walk 2019 staff and actors

The Challenge of Preserving our

The technology of early photography allowed us to preserve our memories on tin, glass, paper, nitrocellulose, and cellulose acetate. But when those images were created, few considered whether the record was permanent. Over time we collectively learned that tin, glass, paper, and cellulose are not permanent records. Negatives melt and photos fade, leaving us with only whispers of images from the past. The chemical emulsions that once enabled photographers to capture fleeting moments in time are destined to rapidly degrade if abatement measures aren't put in place.

That being the case, in 2018 the Museum received grant funding and support through private donations to create a digital archive of the over one million (many never before seen) *Pantagraph* negatives in our collection—beginning with more than 36,000 of the most at risk images dating back to the 1930s. These 36,000 images are now available to the public through the Illinois Digital Archive (www.idaillinois.org).

The digitization took place in New Jersey, where the negatives were carefully cleaned of dust and then sent through scanners to create high-resolution images. The scanners were capable of digitizing 120 images per hour, which made the process not only fast and accurate, but also economical. The Museum's scanners, though capable of reproducing negatives at the same resolution, would take 30 times as long to complete the process and involve thousands of personnel hours. Museum personnel hours not spent scanning files were instead dedicated to compiling metadata for each digitized image by attaching descriptions and subject headings, including place names, personal names, and dates. This data makes it possible for the public and Museum staff alike to easily search the collection by keyword depending on their respective interests and research needs.

As excited as we are to see the success of this project come to fruition—particularly after being awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to digitize another 50,000 images and install the recommended onsite equipment needed to best preserve the original negatives, we ask ourselves, “*Will future hardware and software be able to read these files?*” This is a question to which we don't have an answer, but we already know that finding proper equipment to read the earliest computer-generated files often proves problematic, and even sometimes impossible.

As we continue to transition from and discard old technology, we in turn lose the ability to access certain information, and eventually that entire memory may



“Negative” History



be lost. But by preserving the physical negatives in our charge using the most up-to-date conservation methods available, we can safeguard the future of our photographic heritage. Years from now, new scanning technology may even allow us to gain additional information, yet unseen, from the negatives we preserve today. Here is to an exciting future of preserving our past!



Image captions clockwise starting here: Horse power pull at the McLean County Fair, 1938; President Franklin Delano Roosevelt attending the funeral of U.S. Speaker of the House Henry T. Rainey, 1934; Princess Cafe, Bloomington, 1938; Dance for Chanute Field (Rantoul, IL) airmen at Miller Park pavilion, 1941; motorcyclists, 1938

Symposium to Study the Past—Envision the Future

Some people say hindsight is 20/20. And some people are blind to their own modern biases. As historians, we recognize that every person is a product of their time and place, entrenched in contemporary, as well as inherited, understandings and perceptions that actively inform their capacity to assess their personal relationship to the past, present, and future. Every work of history, no matter how thoroughly researched and presumably factual, is an artifact in itself—a record of the way a person(s) in their current time perceived a particular narrative about a select (and likely rather nebulous) series of prior events.

That said, there remains inherent value in looking back, seeing the past for what it is, and bringing un- and lesser told stories into clearer view—as is demonstrated by the theme of the 2020 annual History and Social Sciences Teacher Symposium, *Hindsight is 2020: Study the Past—Envision the Future*.

Though hindsight may never equate to perfect vision, we must take time to revisit what has come before in order to best understand the now and anticipate, prepare for, and shape what is yet to be. Inspired by this goal, symposium sessions will seek to open participants' eyes to classroom-relevant themes including advocacy, ability, gender, orientation, race, religion, immigration, civil rights, state standards, and more.

For thirteen years the Museum has partnered with the Illinois State University Department of History and Regional Office of Education #17 to offer this free opportunity for professional development to new, seasoned, and future teachers throughout the state of Illinois.

"Through challenging conversations, content rich sessions, and innovative pedagogy, participants will explore important teaching topics. This annual event demonstrates community collaboration and our efforts on behalf of teachers and future teachers to support excellence in education," said Monica Noraian, co-coordinator of the conference and associate professor of history at ISU.

The History and Social Sciences Teacher Symposium will take place Friday, February 7, 2020 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at ISU. Free registration is open and available to all Illinois middle and high school history and social science teachers. If you are interested in presenting, the call for session proposals is out. Individuals who submit a proposal for the 2020 symposium will be notified of their acceptance in December. For more information on submitting a session proposal, please contact Dr. Monica Noraian at mcnora2@ilstu.edu. If you are an Illinois teacher and wish to register for the symposium, please visit <https://bit.ly/2kKCXxN>



Crossroads Area Student Theatre Christmas Festival comes to the Museum

Earlier this year, Crossroads Area Student Theatre (CAST) approached the Museum with an exciting proposal—for the Museum to host their annual Christmas theater festival. Not only would this opportunity give the students of CAST a new, historic venue to practice their craft, but it would bring a new audience to the Museum and Downtown Bloomington. Christmas lovers of all ages can catch these free, family-friendly performances at the Museum on December 6, 7, and 10.

“We are excited to join forces with the MCMH for this event,” says Connie Beard, Artistic Managing Director of CAST. *“Our company has a mission of teaching our members that their talents and gifts are to be given back to the community. This event will provide a wonderful opportunity to do just that.”*

Inspired by Merry Old England (with emphasis on the merry), the Museum will be filled with characters straight from the pages of the classic works of Charles Dickens. Visitors will find Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Oliver, and many more, as the following three plays will be presented at various times during the festival—*Bah Humbug*, *The Cratchit Family*, and *Dickens in America*. Notable characters will have collector cards to hand out to any young adoring fans.

Performances will be held during the *F1rst Fr1day/Once Upon a Holiday* activities on Friday, December 6 from 2:00 until 8:00 p.m., during the Museum’s annual *Christmas at the Courthouse* on Saturday, December 7 from 12:00 until 4:00 p.m., and an encore presentation on Tuesday, December 10 from 5:30 until 9:00 p.m. All activities are free and open to the public.

Crossroads Area Student Theatre is a not-for-profit, 501c3 company in its sixth season serving students across McLean County. Membership in the company is a yearlong commitment, with students ages 7 to 19 and their families joining for a season of theater productions. Learn more at www.CASTBN.org



Crossroads Area Student Theatre
Dickens Christmas Festival 2018

Join us Friday, December 6 from 5 to 8 p.m. for

F1rst Fr1day: *Once Upon a Holiday*

and Saturday, December 7 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for

Christmas at the Courthouse

New to Collections

Artifacts

- Korean War Air Force dress uniform, c. 1953; donated by Bill LaBounty
- Beattie Portronic camera and roll film holders, c. 1956; donated by Thomas K. Berglund
- Gay People's Alliance t-shirt, c. 1975; donated by Denise Goff
- Olde Towne Neighborhood Watch Citizen Patrol vest, c. 2003; donated

- by Karen Schmidt
- Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree chalice, c. 1930; Mark B. Hayes for Mayor matchbook, c. 1937; gavel used by Mayor Mark B. Hayes, c. 1940; Oesch Transfer Company pencil, c. 1940; ACME Amusement Company pencil, c. 1940; donated by Maggie Bratcher
- Boston Café premium comb, c.

- 1925; donated by William and Pat Penc
- Beich Candy All-Purpose Survival Bar, c. 1967; donated by Catherine Knight
- Bloomington Stockyards livestock cane, c. 1935; donated by Paul Ross
- Central Illinois Pride Health Center t-shirt, c. 2015; donated by Len Meyer



Featured Artifact

Beattie Portronic Camera — donated by Thomas K. Berglund

The Museum recently received this camera that was used by Kenneth "Kenny" Berglund (1917-2003). Berglund was the owner of Ken-Way Studio in Bloomington and was responsible for taking ID photos for businesses and schools throughout the city. The studio also photographed Santa's Village in Bloomington and various downtown businesses.

Ken-Way Studio first opened at 501 N. Main St., taking over the location of United Photography. This transfer of ownership included the photo collection of United Photography. With that collection, Berglund was able to create a complete photographic timeline of many of the buildings, businesses, and people in the Central Illinois region. Ken-Way Studio later moved to 206 E. Mulberry St., where it remained until the business closed in the 1980s. The collection of photos and negatives are held at the Dr. Jo Ann Rayfield Archives at Illinois State University.

Archives

- Letter from Eugene D. Funk, Jr. to Anton Hildebrandt, concerning Moore's Mill, 1963; Pioneer Prairie Trails tour program, McLean County Historical Society, Oct. 13, 1963; donated by Becky Mumford
- Local music, including five Yea Big CDs (Yea Big is the donor's solo music project), 2006 to 2017; donated by Stefen Robinson
- Memory book compiled by Arlene Genevieve Elliott (mother of donor) containing notes, programs, and photographs from Cropsey High School and

- Illinois State Normal University, 1930s; donated by Sue Harrison
- Various items relating to Rinkenberger family, including donor's baby book; donated by Lisa Rinkenberger Walsh
- Holy Trinity Church annual report, pages 1-19, 1903; donated by Jean Newmister
- Collection of area ephemera, including welcome material provided by the Civic Newcomers group; season schedules for area sports teams, including the Corn-belters, Blaze, Thunder, and Edge; and many other varied items; donated by Sandie Stengel

- Various collections of papers, including those relating to the Corn on the Curb project, the Downtown Residents Association, the McGregor Building, and other topics; donated by Marlene Gregor
- Large collection of local sports items, including photographs, programs, score sheets, newspaper clippings, and other items; donated by Richard "Dick" Pistole
- Minutes from the McLean County Jail Review Committee; Prairie Fire Theatre programs; additions to the Advocacy Council for Human Rights / Prairie Pride Coalition Collection; other material;

Books / Periodicals / Publications

donated by Margot Mendoza

- Issue of Railroad Heritage magazine (2019:3) containing article by donor about 1930s Pantagraph photos of railroading; donated by Mike Matejka
- Elsie Mandel Cohn pocket diary; correspondence relating to Ringo family and Robert Rehker; other items; donated by Sandra Brown
- Collection of material relating to the Elliott family, including high school report cards, WWII ration books, and high school diploma for Arlene Elliott; address book, life insurance policy, and memory card for Ida E. Elliott; and other items; donated by Sue Harrison
- Booklet, *The Modern Woodmen Minstrels* by C.C. Hassler, 1903; letter, William T. Sherman Woman's Relief Corps, April 22, 1922; Harwood Bros. & Co. advertising cards; and other items; donated by David M. Parker
- WJBC 50th anniversary Year in Review LP, 1974; donated by Carolyn Newberg
- Reflections on an Academic Professional: Samuel Braden authored by donor, 1990; donated by Paul Baker
- Handwritten manuscript, *History of Garfield School Club* by Alvina A. Ropp; and other items; donated by Ron Ropp

- Several titles, including *Regimental Losses in the American Civil War* (1985); and *Working for the Railroad: The Organization of Work in the Nineteenth Century* (Princeton University Press, 1983) by Walter Licht; donated by Greg Koos
- Gregg Speed Studies (1917), textbook for the study of shorthand used by donor's father, Earl Thomas, at Brown's Business College (Earl later formed his own bookkeeping firm); donated by Mike Thomas
- Isaac Elliott - Anna Male Elliott family, 1987 (unpublished family history); donated by Sue Harrison
- Arrowsmith Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): 1879-1979 centennial history; donated by Lisa Rickenberger Walsh
- Once Upon a Time, bedtime stories of Lyle Russell Gilmore; donated by Delores Perry
- Ordinances of the City of Chenoa from Apr. 3, 1899 ... (compilation consisting of clippings published in Chenoa Clipper newspaper from 1899-1907); *The Push-Button Magic of Life* by F. Evelyn Etter, a history of Garfield School, Dry Grove Township; history of the Garfield School Social Club, 1915-1976; donated by Ron

The Museum collects novels, short story compilations, poetry collections, and all kinds of writings—published and unpublished—from authors with connections to McLean County.

What's gathering dust on your bookshelf?

Ropp

- George Barford, *Photographs: A One Man Exhibition*, March 20-April 15, 1979, published by the Center for the Visual Arts Gallery, College of Fine Arts, Illinois State University; donated by Mike Matejka
- Paul F. Beich Co. "souvenir" booklet, 1954; donated by Ruth Gabor

Photographs / Images

- Large collection of Walker, VanWinkle, and Sinks family photographs; donated by Donna J. Sinks

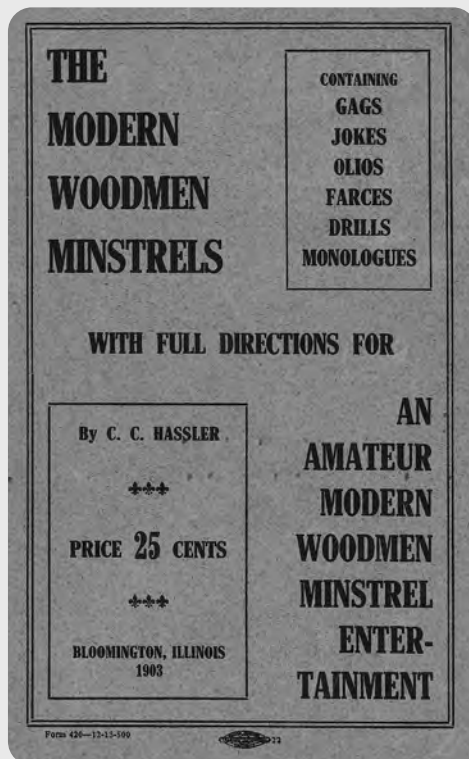
Featured Document

Minstrel booklet by C.C. Hassler, 1903

During the past several months the Museum has received some remarkable items from David M. Parker. One such donation is this 22-page booklet, *The Modern Woodmen Minstrels*, written by local resident C.C. Hassler and published in Bloomington. This booklet offers script suggestions to local chapters of the Modern Woodmen (a fraternal organization) wishing to stage a "Negro Minstrel Show."

Yes, this item represents a grim chapter in U.S. history when overtly racist entertainments such as minstrel shows were an integral part of the nation's popular culture. That said, the Museum's mission is to collect objects and items that represent all facets of local history—both the good and the bad. A full appreciation of history requires us to remember those parts we would like to forget, but yet have a responsibility to remember.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Charles Cunningham (C.C.) Hassler was a well-known public official, winning elections for city treasurer and city clerk. At the time of his death in 1910, he was serving as the clerk of McLean County.



Volunteer Spotlight



One may think first of our cheerful and welcoming volunteers at the reception desk in the Visitors Center, or our helpful and knowledgeable volunteers in the Library—but, many different people volunteer at the Museum to assist with a wide range of tasks. From age 5 to 95. From east, west, and everywhere in between. This diverse group of willing volunteers is the lifeblood of the Museum, and we could not do what we do without them. Or, without you!

Eike Schmedt needed an occasional distraction from the heady work of finishing up his dissertation (he's writing about how government entities influence the protection of cultural and Natural World Heritage sites), and decided some behind-the-scenes work in the Museum's Collections would be just the thing.

A native of Germany, Eike came to the U.S. with his wife Lindsey, who is a Bloomington-native currently working at Illinois State University. They met in Cottbus, Germany while earning Masters degrees in World Heritage Studies. While completing his graduate work, Eike did an internship with the Volkskunde Museum Schleswig, a branch of the Schleswig-Holstein State Museum in northern Germany. He noted that the Volkskunde is very similar to the McLean County Museum of History and investigated volunteer work here because he believed it would be a good fit. He was right!

Since he began volunteering for the Museum's curator in January, Eike has been helping to improve the Museum's storage capacity. This has included the installation of new shelving units and wall mounts, construction of a custom

case for select military items, and construction of numerous custom boxes for holding everything from stone cutting tools, to a Navy "Mae West" vest, to a set of bells for a horse harness. The custom-built boxes reduce potential damage done to artifacts by limiting how much they are handled, keep artifacts from being stacked on each other, and create more space in storage.

Program Series Planned for New Year

Inspired by the Museum's newest exhibit, *Challenges, Choices, and Change: A Community in Conflict*, the Museum, in partnership with Not In Our Town, Heartland Community College, the YWCA of McLean County, and other local organizations, will present the dialogue-based program series, *A Community in Conflict Conversation* from January to April 2020. These

monthly opportunities for community conversation will highlight the historic and present day significance of four questions featured in the exhibit—asking always, "Who has the power?"



In an age of underemployment and ever-increasing wage disparity, who has the power to choose their work? With lasting barriers and lack of equitable access to educational opportunities for minority populations, who has the power to get an equal education? Women's participation in politics (whether at the polls or in office) is at an all-time high—which begs the question, who has the power to be heard? Who has the power to define morality as society's understanding of sexual expression continues to evolve?

Join us at the Museum in January and April, at Heartland Community College in February, and at the YWCA in March for these discourse-driven free, public programs. Dates, times, and additional community partners will be announced in late December.

Six Predictors of Happiness in Retirement


A study of adult development has been carried out at Harvard for roughly the last century. Three groups have been tracked: 268 Harvard graduates born about 1920; 90 middle-class gifted women born about 1910; and 456 social disadvantaged men from inner cities born about 1930. Some of the results of the study were reported in Business Insider.

Data on these three groups were collected throughout their lives. As they reached their 70s, the retirees were classified as "Happy-Well," "Sad-Sick," or "Prematurely Dead." What life events made a person more likely to fall into one category or the other? What did those in the "Happy-Well" have in common?

1. *No smoking or drinking.* Heavy smokers were ten times more likely to be prematurely dead, where "heavy" means three packs of cigarettes a day. However, the effects on health could still be discerned among pack-a-day smokers even if they quit by age 45. Drinking was found to create stress in one's life, rather than relieving it.
2. *More education.* Some of the inner city men went on to college, despite their disadvantages. Interestingly, their health at age 70 was roughly the same as the Harvard grads. Those who did not pursue their education aged prematurely; their health at age 70 was similar to the Harvard grads at age 80.
3. *A happy childhood.* Whether a mother made a child feel loved was a better predictor than class of achieving a high income. Having a strong, stable father figure (in contrast to an impoverished father) tended to inoculate men to future pain.
4. *Strong relationships.* Some of the men and women who started out with wealth and talent nevertheless were not doing well in their 70s. Those who succeeded often had greater emotional intelligence, an aptitude for building and maintaining the relationships in their lives.
5. *Coping skills.* Having mature responses to life's challenges was found to be common among the "Happy-Well" and almost absent among the "Sad-Sick." Among the mature responses are altruism, suppression (turning lemons into lemonade), and humor (not taking oneself too seriously). Poorer outcomes came from being passive-aggressive, living in denial, acting out, and retreating into fantasy.
6. *Generativity.* Giving back to the community enriches the giver as much as it enriches the community. From the study: "Among all three samples generative men and women at 50 were three to six times as likely to be among the Happy-Well in old age as among the Sad-Sick ... In all three Study cohorts, mastery of Generativity tripled the chances that the decade of the 70s would be for these men and women a time of joy and not of despair."

All of these observations seem unremarkable, intuitively clear, but it's nice to have the science behind them.

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Possessions Reflect Those Who Called Noble-Wieting Home

The Museum is pleased to welcome back Dr. Logan Miller, assistant professor of anthropology at Illinois State University, who will present a program about the most recent archaeological findings at the Noble-Wieting site this past summer 2019. The program will be held on Saturday, February 8 at 1:15 p.m. in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom and is free and open to the public.

During the Mississippian period (1000-1400 AD), the largest prehistoric North American city existed right here in Illinois. The rise and fall of Cahokia reverberated throughout eastern North America, resulting in many population movements and new ways of life in the region. Archaeologists refer to the new lifeways in northern Illinois at this time as the Langford Tradition. While most major Langford sites occur along the upper Illinois River and the Chicagoland area, one site that does not fit the pattern is the village of Noble-Wieting in McLean County. Archaeologists have puzzled over the site's anomalous nature. Was Noble-Wieting a trading outpost, set up by Langford peoples to access Mississippian goods or ideas? Was it a refuge, established by Langford peoples but accepting disaffected Mississippians? Or was it an example of ethnogenesis, a new cultural entity emerging from the interaction of two or more disparate groups?

The findings by Illinois State University and the Illinois State Archaeological Survey during the past three summers of archaeological excavation at Noble-Wieting have provided a glimpse into what was probably McLean County's largest community during the 1300s. As in any community, the inhabitants of Noble-Wieting shared certain similarities, as well as important differences, with their fellow villagers. Fortunately for archaeologists, many of these social dynamics are likely reflected in their houses and possessions. This presentation will provide a comparison of the remains of dwellings and their associated artifacts from different areas of the village to illustrate what is known about life at this unique and important site.

Dr. Logan Miller's research and publications cover topics related to lithic technology and Midwestern archaeology. He has directed archaeological field schools in Illinois and Ohio.



Dr. Logan and a student discuss their findings.



Wet or Dry? Prohibition in McLean County

Thursday, January 16 at 7 p.m. at Bloomington Public Library

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 6 2 to 8 p.m.
Crossroads Area Student Theatre Dickens Christmas Festival

December 6 5 to 8 p.m.
F1rst Fr1day: Once Upon a Holiday

December 7 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Christmas at the Courthouse

December 7 12 to 5 p.m.
Crossroads Area Student Theatre Dickens Christmas Festival

December 10 5:30 to 9 p.m.
Crossroads Area Student Theatre Dickens Christmas Festival

December 19
Museum closed for In Service Day

December 24-25
Museum closed for Christmas holiday

December 31, 2019 and January 1, 2020
Museum closed for New Year holiday

January 16
Museum closed for In Service Day

January 16 7 p.m.
Wet or Dry? Prohibition in McLean County with Candace Summers at Bloomington Public Library

January 28 6:45 p.m.
A Community in ~~Conflict~~ Conversation Program Series Part 1

February 7 5 to 8 p.m.
F1rst Fr1day: Tour de Chocolat

February 8 1:15 p.m.
Exploring the Community of Noble-Wieting

February 20
Museum closed for In Service Day

February 22 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Knit In at Bloomington Public Library

February 27 4 p.m.
A Community in ~~Conflict~~ Conversation Program Series Part 2 at Heartland Community College

LUNCH & LEARN

December-January-February programs
 Co-sponsored by the Museum and Illinois Wesleyan University

December 12 at 12:10 p.m.
Esports 101—The Newest Sports Taking the World by Storm with Callum Fletcher, head Esports coach at Illinois Wesleyan University

January 9 at 12:10 p.m.
The Central Illinois Roots of Lloyd Loar and the Iconic F-5 Mandolin with James Stanlaw, professor of anthropology at Illinois Wesleyan University

February 13 at 12:10 p.m.
 To be announced

Pack a lunch and feast on some food for thought every second Thursday of the month September through May.

February 4 at 7:00 p.m.

The Starved Rock Murders

by Steve Stout

History Reads Book Club



Happy Holidays!



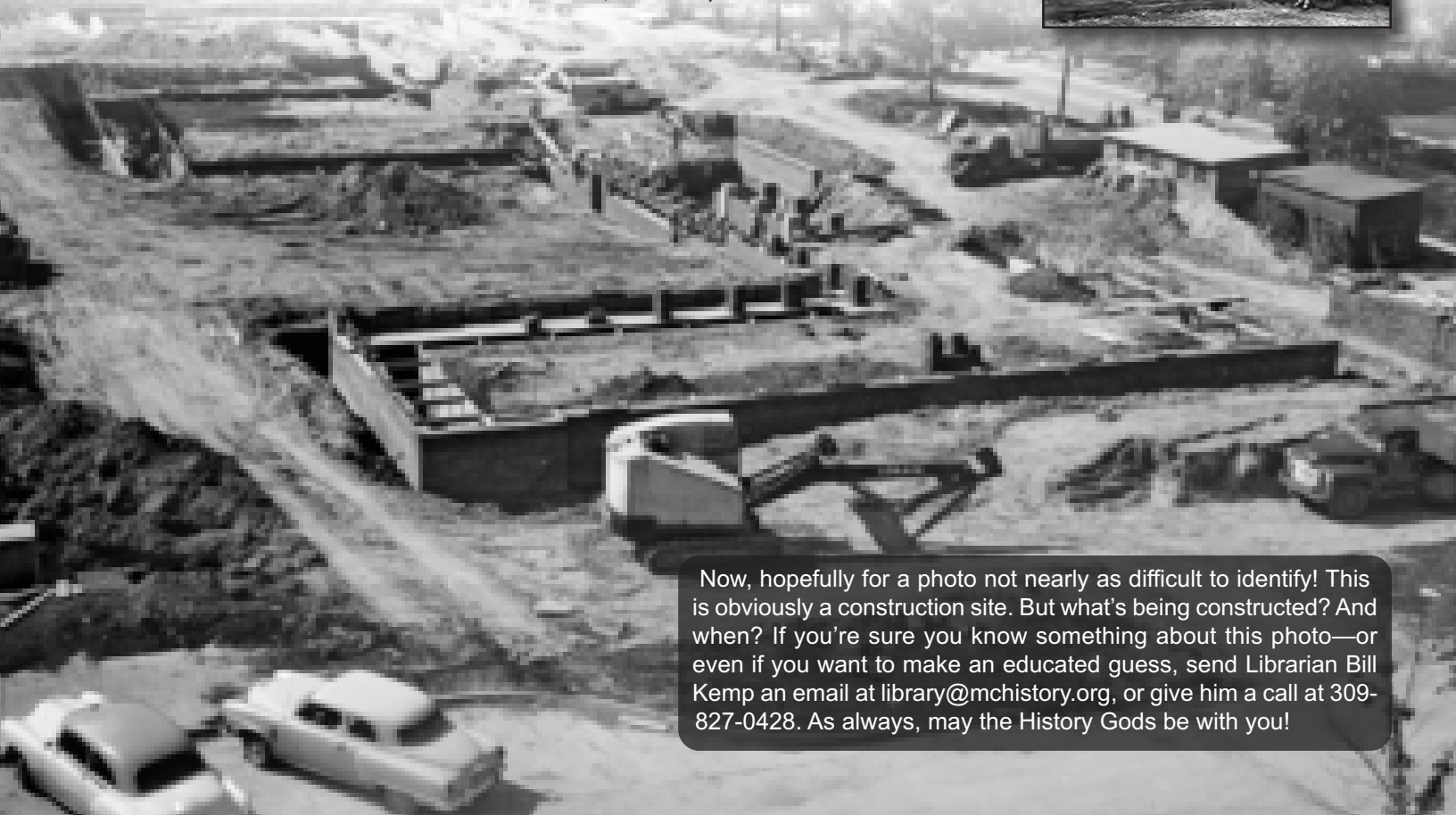
McLean County
MUSEUM of HISTORY

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309-827-0428 or mchistory.org

Mystery History Quiz

Wow, last issue's photo will go down as one of the most difficult in the long and storied annals of the Museum's Mystery History feature. We didn't hear from a single one of you! Oh well, it was a difficult one for sure. It showed the Robert and Catherine VanWinkle, and Cleve and Grace VanWinkle families in front of the old service station in Benjaminville. The photo was undated, but likely 1930s. In the decade before the Civil War, Quaker wheat farmers began clustering around the tiny settlement of Benjaminville (now Bentown), located some 10 miles east of Bloomington. The Benjaminville Friends meeting house, built in 1874, still stands, and this house of worship and adjacent burial grounds create one of the more peaceful settings in all Central Illinois. Yet in the early 1870s, Benjaminville became little more than a ghost town when a railroad was platted a few miles to the south, leading most everyone to pick up stakes and relocate to the newly established grain elevator access and settlement of Holder. That railroad became known as the Lake Erie and Western, and today it's the Norfolk and Southern.



Now, hopefully for a photo not nearly as difficult to identify! This is obviously a construction site. But what's being constructed? And when? If you're sure you know something about this photo—or even if you want to make an educated guess, send Librarian Bill Kemp an email at library@mchistory.org, or give him a call at 309-827-0428. As always, may the History Gods be with you!